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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I have used a local ISP, Sonic.net, for over 20 years for home and business. Every time I check on whether I should switch to somebody else, I find Sonic gives better rates, better service, and a better deal overall than AT&T, Verizon, etc all. I get my internet Sonic. When Sonic started offering low-cost land-line service, I switched from AT&T. If they offered cell service, I'd switch from my Verizon account in a flash.

I run a small publishing business, and need excellent, affordable broadband to connect to printers and other vendors. My marketing depends on broadband. I have found that a local provider is able to give me more customized service, better prices, and invests in the community.

As an example, my husband is a computer professional. When we lived in San Francisco, we were at the very end of a DSL line from the local switch, and were having all kinds of mysterious problems. Counter to prior experience with Pacific Bell, Sonic's tech support was helpful, actually knew something, and were always quickly available. They are not an outsourced call center reading from scripts. As soon as they realized they were talking to somebody else technical, they quickly moved into detail diagnosis. We ran experiments together, figured out the issue, and they had the wherewithal to get action out of AT&T, which we would never have been able to do.

Please do NOT let the small handful of giant players gut competitive access to the network by local carriers. If they prevail on this, it will only lead to increased monopoly, increased prices for residential customers like me, and worse service. If I had to go back to AT&T et al, it would be a material harm to my business. Please retain the components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that support competition. Thank you.

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